

## **Behrmans happy case gets a break**

by Kurt Van der Dussen, Herald-Times Staff Writer

December 18, 2004



**Eric and Marilyn Behrman listen Friday to excerpts of a television program about the disappearance of their daughter, Jill, and the search for those responsible for her death. Staff photo by David Snodgress**

INDIANAPOLIS — It wasn't easy for Eric and Marilyn Behrman to sit and watch close to 10 minutes of video from two past "America's Most Wanted" TV shows about their daughter Jill's death.

But it was those shows that ultimately led to the capture of Kerry Silvers Wednesday in a small town in Mexico — and the hope that he can give investigators a break in the 4 1/2-year police investigation.

And for that, they were happy Friday morning.

Marilyn Behrman watched with a grim determination as federal marshals led off a news conference in the Federal Building in Indianapolis with a video of the two shows, but Eric Behrman had to turn away from the screen at times to keep his composure.

There were pictures of Jill on her beloved bike, and far grimmer pictures of the awful search of the muddy bed of a drained Salt Creek North Fork in 2002, back when it was thought her body might have been dumped there.

And then there was the recounting of the March 2003 discovery of her bones in the woods of Morgan County — a discovery that sent the case almost back to square one.

But the hardest thing to watch was the end of the television show, when a choked-up Eric had pleaded with the public to provide information.

"There are people out there who know," he said on the videotape, his voice breaking. "There are people who know who did it and how it was done ... It's time for them to come forward."

It was that heartbroken plea that got Jason Wojdylo, a supervisory deputy with the U.S. Marshal's Service for Indiana's southern district, out of his armchair at home that night and onto the case. And 106 days later, it led to Silvers' being spotted in tiny Martinez de la Torre in the Mexican state of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico, where he was arrested Wednesday. Silvers is not a suspect in Jill Behrman's death, but investigators say he may have knowledge that could help police.

Friday, Eric Behrman thanked all the people who helped make a capture that he and Marilyn Behrman hope will lead to their daughter's killer.

"We are grateful to everyone who had a part in this, and it goes back a long, long way," he said, referring to local, state and federal law enforcement officials who have been working the case, some since the its start on May 31, 2000, when Jill disappeared during a bike ride.

And while Eric Behrman was not as emotional as he had been on "America's Most Wanted," he was just as determined in his desire for the public to provide information.

"We're not giving up on anyone" who might know anything, whom he said, "we're going to seek and we're going to find, wherever they might be."

"All they need to do is pick up the phone" and call any law enforcement agency involved in the case, he said.

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